REMARKS

Paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action rejected claims 1, 80 and 82 with a nonstatutory double patenting rejection. Applicant disagrees, but in order to expedite allowance of the claims, Applicant files herewith a terminal disclaimer on Applicant's patent numbers 6,725,250 and 7,024,449.

Claims 1, 80 and 82 have been amended to replace the use of "comprising" in the preamble with an even more definite phrase, "including, but not limited to". In addition, claim 1 has been amended to remove the phrase, "at least one portion of", which further limits the scope of claim 1. Also, an error in the proper antecedent basis of "a network of computers" has been corrected.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action objected to claims 10, 81 and 83 because the support for terms "at least one control unit" and "at least two processing units". Applicant respectfully disagrees. Support for the term "control unit" can be founded in paragraph [0111] where it states on line 15 "_a_master control and/or processing unit 93", meaning component 93 can be "a ... **control unit**" or "a **processing unit**" or both. Thus there is support for "at least one control unit" and "at least two processing units". The Examiner noted in paragraph 9 that there is only support for **not more than** two processing units. Applicant respectfully disagrees. It is clear from the specification, for example in paragraph [0111], lines 15-16, that there can be "one or more ... processing units 94"; in addition, the subject of paragraph [0111] is Fig. 10C, which shows an example embodiment with four processing units 94.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action also objected to claims 2 and 45-57 because of support for the terms "a number of independent components", "at least two independent components"

and "each component". Applicant respectfully disagrees and points out that these terms appeared in originally filed claim 2 and 45-47. In addition, the terms "component" or "components" appear in paragraphs [0232], [0236], and [0238] of the specification, lines 16 and 26-27, lines 5 and 8, and line 12, respectively..

With respect to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 5 and 6 as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In order to expedite allowance of the claims, claims 5 and 6 have been amended to further limit the subject matter of claim 1. The subject matter added to amend Claims 5 and 6 are from paragraph [0266] of the specification, lines 7-8 and lines 10-11, respectively.

With respect to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the informalities objected to by the Examiner in claims 8, 9, 51, 59, 60, 65, 66, 68-70, 81 and 83 have been corrected.

With respect to paragraphs 6-9 of the Office Action, the rejections to claims 1, 45-47, 81 and 83 have been addressed above (see the explanation above for the objections relating to paragraph 3 of the Office Action). With respect to the rejection of claim 2, this claim has been amended by replacing "a number of" with "two or more". With respect to the rejection of claim 10, this rejection has been addressed above (see the explanation above for the objection relating to paragraph 3 of the Office Action). With respect to the rejection of claim 74, claim 74 has been cancelled. With respect to the rejection of claim 84, the term "being" has been deleted from this claim.

With respect to paragraph 10 of the Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 60, 65, 66, and 68-70 to state "at least two **memory** hardware components".

With respect to paragraph 11 of the Office Action, claim 2 has been amended so that "two or more" replaced "a number of".
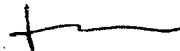
With respect to paragraph 12 of the Office Action, claims 31 and 32 have been cancelled.

With respect to paragraph 13 of the Office Action, as mentioned above with respect to paragraphs 1-2 of the office action, a terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome the rejection.

Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should the Examiner believe that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER LLP US

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Dale Lazar
Registration No. 28,872

Lisa K. Norton
Registration No. 44,977

PO Box 2758
Reston, Virginia 20195-3171
Telephone No. (703) 773-4149
Facsimile No. (703) 773-5200